





























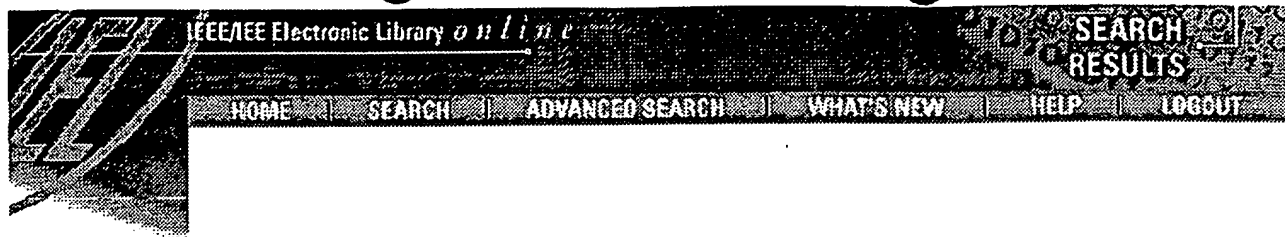
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CNF			<p><b><u>Design of haptic interface through stiffness modulation for endosurgery: theory and experiments</u></b>  <i>Faraz, A.; Payandeh, S.; Salvarinov, A.</i>                      Robotics and Automation, 1998. Proceedings. 1998 IEEE International Conference on                      Volume: 2 , 1998 , Page(s): 1007 -1012 vol.2</p>
CNF			<p><b><u>Contact sensation in the synthetic environment using the ISU force reflecting exoskeleton</u></b>  <i>Luecke, G.R.; Chai, Y.-H.</i>                      Virtual Reality Annual International Symposium, 1997., IEEE 1997 ,                      1997 , Page(s): 192 -198, 218</p>
CNF			<p><b><u>Force propagation models in laparoscopic tools and trainers</u></b>  <i>Payandeh, S.</i>                      Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society, 1997. Proceedings of the 19th Annual International Conference of the IEEE                      Volume: 3 , 1997 , Page(s): 957 -960 vol.3</p>
CNF			<p><b><u>Haptic interface for virtual reality based minimally invasive surgery simulation</u></b>  <i>Baumann, R.; Clavel, R.</i>                      Robotics and Automation, 1998. Proceedings. 1998 IEEE International Conference on                      Volume: 1 , 1998 , Page(s): 381 -386 vol.1</p>
CNF			<p><b><u>Tele-teaching by human demonstration in virtual environment for robotic network system</u></b>  <i>Kunii, Y.; Hashimoto, H.</i>                      Robotics and Automation, 1997. Proceedings., 1997 IEEE International Conference on                      Volume: 1 , 1997 , Page(s): 405 -410 vol.1</p>

- |     |                                                                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CNF |     |     | <p><b><u>Haptic interaction using a PUMA560 and an ISU force reflecting exoskeleton system</u></b><br/> <i>Luecke, G.R.; Chai, Y.-H.</i><br/>         Robotics and Automation, 1997. Proceedings., 1997 IEEE International Conference on<br/>         Volume: 1 , 1997 , Page(s): 106 -111 vol.1</p>                             |
| CNF |    |    | <p><b><u>Haptic display of visual images</u></b><br/> <i>Shi, Y.; Pai, D.K.</i><br/>         Virtual Reality Annual International Symposium, 1997., IEEE 1997 , 1997 , Page(s): 188 -191</p>                                                                                                                                     |
| CNF |    |    | <p><b><u>Imposing motion constraints to a force reflecting telerobot through real-time simulation of a virtual mechanism</u></b><br/> <i>Joly, L.D.; Andriot, C.</i><br/>         Robotics and Automation, 1995. Proceedings., 1995 IEEE International Conference on<br/>         Volume: 1 , 1995 , Page(s): 357 -362 vol.1</p> |
| CNF |    |    | <p><b><u>A coarse-fine approach to force-reflecting hand controller design</u></b><br/> <i>Stocco, L.; Salcudean, S.E.</i><br/>         Robotics and Automation, 1996. Proceedings., 1996 IEEE International Conference on<br/>         Volume: 1 , 1996 , Page(s): 404 -410 vol.1</p>                                           |
| CNF |    |    | <p><b><u>Tactile feedback with adaptive controller for a force-reflecting haptic display. 1. Design</u></b><br/> <i>Hasser, C.J.; Daniels, M.W.</i><br/>         Biomedical Engineering Conference, 1996., Proceedings of the 1996 Fifteenth Southern , 1996 , Page(s): 526 -529</p>                                             |
| CNF |  |  | <p><b><u>Implementation of stiff virtual walls in force-reflecting interfaces</u></b><br/> <i>Colgate, J.E.; Grafing, P.E.; Stanley, M.C.; Schenkel, G.</i><br/>         Virtual Reality Annual International Symposium, 1993., 1993 IEEE , 1993 , Page(s): 202 -208</p>                                                         |
| CNF |  |  | <p><b><u>Design of a high performance haptic interface to virtual environments</u></b><br/> <i>Millman, P.A.; Stanley, M.; Colgate, J.E.</i><br/>         Virtual Reality Annual International Symposium, 1993., 1993 IEEE , 1993 , Page(s): 216 -222</p>                                                                        |
| CNF |  |  | <p><b><u>Passivity of a Class of Sampled-Data Systems: Appliation to Haptic Interfaces</u></b><br/> <i>Colgate, J.E.; Schenkel, G.</i><br/>         American Control Conference, 1994<br/>         Volume: 3 , Page(s): 3236 -3240</p>                                                                                           |
| CNF |  |  | <p><b><u>Tactile feedback with adaptive controller for a force-reflecting haptic display. 2. Improvements and evaluation</u></b><br/> <i>Hasser, C.J.; Daniels, M.W.</i><br/>         Biomedical Engineering Conference, 1996., Proceedings of the 1996 Fifteenth Southern , 1996 , Page(s): 530 -533</p>                        |





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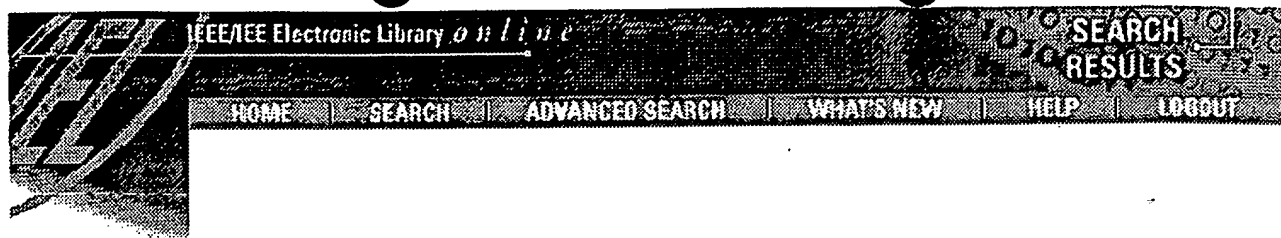
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CNF			<p><b><u>Error burst metrics for failure trajectory analysis</u></b>  <i>Butler, R.A.; Cochrane, P.; Massie, J.Z.</i>                      International Transmission System, IEE Colloquium on , 1994 , Page(s):                      10/1 -10/4</p>
CNF			<p><b><u>Space Systems Requirements and Issues: The Next Decade</u></b>  <i>Borger, W.U.; Massie, L.D.</i>                      Energy Conversion Engineering Conference, 1990. IECEC-90.                      Proceedings of the 25th Intersociety                      Volume: 1 , Page(s): 1 -5</p>
CNF			<p><b><u>Present ability of commercial molecular beam epitaxy</u></b>  <i>Bacher, K.; Massie, S.; Hartzel, D.; Stewart, T.</i>                      Indium Phosphide and Related Materials, 1997., International                      Conference on , 1997 , Page(s): 351 -352</p>
CNF			<p><b><u>IR retinal vision processor hybrid IC</u></b>  <i>Curzan, J.; Adams, A.; Huynh, B.; Massie, M.</i>                      Solid-State Circuits Conference, 1994. Digest of Technical Papers. 41st                      ISSCC., 1994 IEEE International , 1994 , Page(s): 132 -133</p>
CNF			<p><b><u>Viscoelastic measurements in soft tissue</u></b>  <i>Ostrander, L.E.; Massi, M.; Cui, W.; Lee, B.</i>                      Bioengineering Conference, 1989., Proceedings of the 1989 Fifteenth                      Annual Northeast , 1989 , Page(s): 209</p>
CNF			<p><b><u>Optimal LS IIR filter design for music analysis/synthesis</u></b>  <i>Stonick, V.L.; Massie, D.</i>                      Circuits and Systems, 1992. ISCAS '92. Proceedings., 1992 IEEE                      International Symposium on                      Volume: 5 , 1992 , Page(s): 2405 -2408 vol.5</p>
CNF			<p><b><u>ARMA filter design for music analysis/synthesis</u></b>  <i>Stonick, V.L.; Massie, D.</i>                      Acoustics, Speech, and Signal Processing, 1992. ICASSP-92., 1992                      IEEE International Conference on                      Volume: 2 , 1992 , Page(s): 253 -256 vol.2</p>

PER

**Future trends in space power technology***Massie, L.D.*

IEEE Aerospace and Electronics Systems Magazine

Volume: 6 11 , Nov. 1991 , Page(s): 8 -13

PER

**Space power systems requirements and issues: the next decade***Massie, L.D.*

IEEE Aerospace and Electronics Systems Magazine

Volume: 5 12 , Dec. 1990 , Page(s): 4 -9

PER

**A tangible goal for 3D modeling***Massie, T.*

IEEE Computer Graphics and Applications

Volume: 18 3 , May-June 1998 , Page(s): 62 -65

PER

**End-point detection of polymer etching using Langmuir probes***de Castro, R.M.; Verdonck, P.; Pisani, M.B.; Mansano, R.D.; Cirino, G.A.;**Maciel, H.S.; Massi, M.*

Plasma Science, IEEE Transactions on

Volume: 28 3 , June 2000 , Page(s): 1043 -1049

PER

**Lightweight power bus for a baseload nuclear reactor in space***Oberly, C.E.; Massie, L.D.; Hoffmann, D.J.*

Magnetics, IEEE Transactions on

Volume: 25 2 , March 1989 , Page(s): 1803 -1806

PER

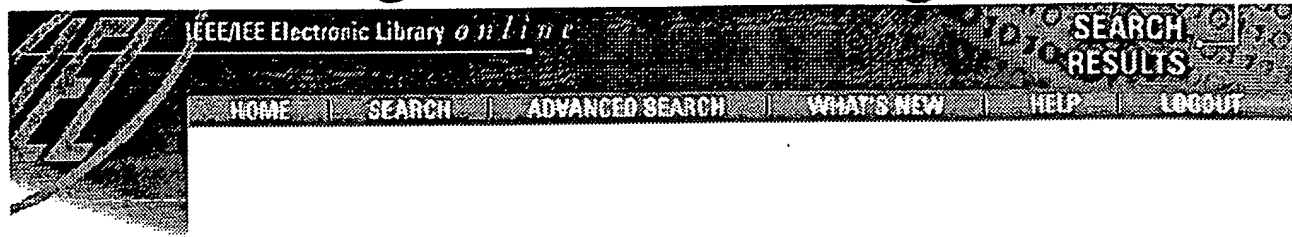
**9-/spl mu/m cutoff 256/spl times/256 GaAs/Al/sub x/Ga/sub 1-x/As****quantum well infrared photodetector hand-held camera***Gunapala, S.D.; Liu, J.K.; Park, J.S.; Sundaram, M.; Shott, C.A.; Hoelter, T.;**True-Lon Lin; Massie, S.T.; Maker, P.D.; Muller, R.E.; Sarusi, G.*

Electron Devices, IEEE Transactions on

Volume: 44 1 , Jan. 1997 , Page(s): 51 -57

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L1 585 S HAPTIC INTERFACE  
L2 340 S L1 AND FORCE  
L3 72 S L2 AND REFLECT?  
L4 28 S L3 AND FREEDOM#  
L5 9 S L4 AND GIMBAL?

=> D L5 1-9 IBIB ABS

L5 ANSWER 1 OF 9 USPATFULL

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2001:30232 USPATFULL  
TITLE: Active joystick with optical positions sensor  
INVENTOR(S): Salcudean, Septimiu E., 4338 West 2nd Avenue,  
Vancouver, B.C. V6R 1K3, Canada  
Parker, Niall R., 289 McCallum Road, RR #5,  
Abbotsford,  
B.C.V2S 4N5, Canada

	NUMBER	DATE
PATENT INFORMATION:	US 6195083	20010227
APPLICATION INFO.:	US 1998-190000	19981112 (9)

	NUMBER	DATE
PRIORITY INFORMATION:	US 1997-65787	19971114 (60)
DOCUMENT TYPE:	Utility	
PRIMARY EXAMINER:	Hjerpe, Richard A.	
ASSISTANT EXAMINER:	Eisen, Alexander	
LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE:	Rowley, C. A.	
NUMBER OF CLAIMS:	17	
EXEMPLARY CLAIM:	1	
NUMBER OF DRAWINGS:	11 Drawing Figure(s); 11 Drawing Page(s)	
LINE COUNT:	805	

AB A joystick composed of a stator formed by an outer cage forming an inner cubic compartment containing an inner cube oriented with its wall spaced from and substantially parallel corresponding wall of the compartment. Opposed magnets are position in cooperating relationship on opposed walls of the compartment and cube and define a gap therebetween. A floater formed by a plurality of flat actuating coils, one positioned in each gap and each thinner than the width of the gap in which it is received. Preferably the ratio of coil thickness to gap width is at least 1:3. Preferably an optical position sensor is used to monitor the relative position of the flotor and stator and is composed of at least one linear light position sensor mounted on one of the stator and flotor and a plurality of planar light beams arranged at an angle to each other on the other of the stator and flotor and directed to the linear light position sensor(s) so that the light beams traverse the linear light

L5 ANSWER 2 OF 9 U S PATFULL

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2000:170419 USPATFULL

TITLE: Inertial orientation tracker having automatic drift compensation for tracking human head and other similarly sized body

INVENTOR(S): Foxlin, Eric M., Cambridge, MA, United States

PATENT ASSIGNEE(S): Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, United States (U.S. corporation)

	NUMBER	DATE
PATENT INFORMATION:	US 6162191	20001219
APPLICATION INFO.:	US 1998-153213	19980914 (9)
DOCUMENT TYPE:	Utility	
PRIMARY EXAMINER:	Rimell, Sam	
LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE:	Weissburg, Steven J.	
NUMBER OF CLAIMS:	4	
EXEMPLARY CLAIM:	1	
NUMBER OF DRAWINGS:	19 Drawing Figure(s); 14 Drawing Page(s)	
LINE COUNT:	1370	

AB A self contained sensor apparatus generates a signal that corresponds to

at least two of the three orientational aspects of yaw, pitch and roll of a human-scale body, relative to an external reference frame. A sensor

generates first sensor signals that correspond to rotational accelerations or rates of the body about certain body axes. The sensor may be mounted to the body. Coupled to the sensor is a signal processor for generating orientation signals relative to the external reference frame that correspond to the angular rate or acceleration signals. The first sensor signals are impervious to interference from electromagnetic, acoustic, optical and mechanical sources. The sensors may be rate sensors. An integrator may integrate the rate signal over time. A drift compensator is coupled to the rate sensors and the integrator. The drift compensator may include a gravitational tilt sensor or a magnetic field sensor or both. A verifier periodically measures the orientation of the body by a means different from the

drift sensitive rate sensors. The verifier may take into account characteristic features of human motion, such as stillness periods. The drift compensator may be, in part, a Kalman filter, which may utilize statistical data about human head motion.

L5 ANSWER 3 OF 9 USPATFULL

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1999:51405 USPATFULL

TITLE: Force reflecting haptic interface

INVENTOR(S): Massie, Thomas H, Vanceburg, KY, United States  
Salisbury, Jr., J. Kenneth, Cambridge, MA, United States

PATENT ASSIGNEE(S): Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, United States (U.S. corporation)

	NUMBER	DATE
PATENT INFORMATION:	US 5898599	19990427
APPLICATION INFO.:	US 1996-771484	19961223 (8)
RELATED APPLN. INFO.:	Continuation of Ser. No. US 1993-130639, filed on 1 Oct 1993, now patented, Pat. No. US 5625576, issued on 29 Apr 1997	



DOCUMENT TYPE: 1111  
PRIMARY EXAMINER: Cosimano, Edward R.  
LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE: Testa, Hurwitz & Thibeault, LL  
NUMBER OF CLAIMS: 52  
EXEMPLARY CLAIM: 1  
NUMBER OF DRAWINGS: 16 Drawing Figure(s); 10 Drawing Page(s)  
LINE COUNT: 2238

AB An apparatus and method for physically exchanging a force with a user in a user-local environment. The apparatus includes a user connection element and a linkage physically linking the user connection element to a reference. The linkage provides at least six independent degrees of freedom to the user connection element. The linkage has an actuator system which powers at least three degrees of freedom of the user connection element, while at least three degrees of freedom remain unpowered. The method includes providing an apparatus which includes a user connection element and a linkage physically linking the user connection element to a reference, the linkage providing at least six independent degrees of freedom to the user connection element. The linkage of the apparatus provided has an actuator system which powers at least three of the six independent degrees of freedom relative to the reference. The method further includes connecting the user connection element to a body member of a user and powering at least three of the six independent degrees of freedom.

L5 ANSWER 4 OF 9 USPATFULL

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1998:111471 USPATFULL  
TITLE: Force-reflecting surgical instrument and positioning mechanism for performing minimally invasive surgery with enhanced dexterity and sensitivity  
INVENTOR(S): Madhani, Akhil J., Cambridge, MA, United States  
Salisbury, J. Kenneth, Cambridge, MA, United States  
PATENT ASSIGNEE(S): Intuitive Surgical, Inc., Mountain View, CA, United States (U.S. corporation)

	NUMBER	DATE
PATENT INFORMATION:	US 5807377	19980915
APPLICATION INFO.:	US 1997-858048	19970516 (8)

	NUMBER	DATE
PRIORITY INFORMATION:	US 1996-17981	19960520 (60)
DOCUMENT TYPE:	Utility	
PRIMARY EXAMINER:	Buiz, Michael	
ASSISTANT EXAMINER:	Woo, Julian W.	
LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE:	Townsend and Townsend and Crew LLP	
NUMBER OF CLAIMS:	21	
EXEMPLARY CLAIM:	1	
NUMBER OF DRAWINGS:	13 Drawing Figure(s); 11 Drawing Page(s)	
LINE COUNT:	1055	

AB An articulated surgical instrument for enhancing the performance of minimally invasive surgical procedures is coupled to a positioning mechanism for supporting and moving the surgical instrument. The positioning mechanism mounts to an operating room table. The instrument has a high degree of dexterity, low friction, low inertia and good force reflection and the positioning mechanism provides a large range of motion to the instrument. The system is operated according to a macro-micro actuation scheme which allows for a large range of motion of the surgical end effector and also allows for sensitive force feedback to a master controller by reducing the measured inertia of the slave system. The macro-micro actuation

L5 ANSWER 5 OF 9 USPATFULL

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1998:111384 USPATFULL  
 TITLE: Inertial orientation tracker apparatus method having automatic drift compensation for tracking human head and other similarly sized body  
 INVENTOR(S): Foxlin, Eric M., Cambridge, MA, United States  
 PATENT ASSIGNEE(S): Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, United States (U.S. corporation)

	NUMBER	DATE
PATENT INFORMATION:	US 5807284	19980915
APPLICATION INFO.:	US 1997-882650	19970625 (8)
RELATED APPLN. INFO.:	Division of Ser. No. US 1994-261364, filed on 16 Jun 1994, now patented, Pat. No. US 5645077	
DOCUMENT TYPE:	Utility	
PRIMARY EXAMINER:	Apley, Richard J.	
ASSISTANT EXAMINER:	Yu, Justine R.	
LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE:	Weissburg, Steven J.	
NUMBER OF CLAIMS:	13	
EXEMPLARY CLAIM:	9	
NUMBER OF DRAWINGS:	19 Drawing Figure(s); 14 Drawing Page(s)	
LINE COUNT:	1482	

AB A self contained sensor apparatus generates a signal that corresponds to

at least two of the three orientational aspects of yaw, pitch and roll of a human-scale body, relative to an external reference frame. A sensor

generates first sensor signals that correspond to rotational accelerations or rates of the body about certain body axes. The sensor may be mounted to the body. Coupled to the sensor is a signal processor for generating orientation signals relative to the external reference frame that correspond to the angular rate or acceleration signals. The first sensor signals are impervious to interference from electromagnetic, acoustic, optical and mechanical sources. The sensors may be rate sensors. An integrator may integrate the rate signal over time. A drift compensator is coupled to the rate sensors and the integrator. The drift compensator may include a gravitational tilt sensor or a magnetic field sensor or both. A verifier periodically measures the orientation of the body by a means different from the

drift sensitive rate sensors. The verifier may take into account characteristic features of human motion, such as stillness periods. The drift compensator may be, in part, a Kalman filter, which may utilize statistical data about human head motion.

L5 ANSWER 6 OF 9 USPATFULL

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1998:55256 USPATFULL  
 TITLE: Gyro-stabilized platforms for force-feedback applications  
 INVENTOR(S): Roston, Gerald P., Whitmore Lake, MI, United States  
 Jacobus, Charles J., Ann Arbor, MI, United States  
 PATENT ASSIGNEE(S): Cybernet Systems Corporation, Ann Arbor, MI, United States (U.S. corporation)

	NUMBER	DATE
PATENT INFORMATION:	US 5754023	19980519
APPLICATION INFO.:	US 1996-736016	19961022 (8)

PRIORITY INFORMATION: US 1995-5861 19951026 (6)  
DOCUMENT TYPE: Utility  
PRIMARY EXAMINER: Ro, Bentsu  
LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE: Gifford, Krass, Groh, Sprinkle, Patmore,  
Anderson & Citkowski  
NUMBER OF CLAIMS: 24  
EXEMPLARY CLAIM: 1  
NUMBER OF DRAWINGS: 25 Drawing Figure(s); 14 Drawing Page(s)  
LINE COUNT: 1372

AB Force feedback in large, immersive environments is provided by device which a gyro- stabilization to generate a fixed point of leverage

for the requisite forces and/or torques. In one embodiment, one or more orthogonally oriented rotating gyroscopes are used to provide a stable platform to which a force-reflecting device can be mounted, thereby coupling reaction forces to a user without the need for connection to a fixed frame. In one physical realization, a rigid handle or joystick is directly connected to the three-axis stabilized platform and using an inventive control scheme to modulate motor torques so that only the desired forces are felt. In an alternative embodiment, a reaction sphere is used to produce the requisite inertial stabilization. Since the sphere is capable of providing controlled torques about three arbitrary, linearly independent axes, it can be used in place of three reaction wheels to provide three-axis stabilization for a variety of space-based and terrestrial applications.

L5 ANSWER 7 OF 9 USPATFULL

ACCESSION NUMBER: 97:58157 USPATFULL  
TITLE: Inertial orientation tracker apparatus having automatic

drift compensation for tracking human head and other similarly sized body  
INVENTOR(S): Foxlin, Eric M., Cambridge, MA, United States  
PATENT ASSIGNEE(S): Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, United States (U.S. corporation)

	NUMBER	DATE
PATENT INFORMATION:	US 5645077	19970708
APPLICATION INFO.:	US 1994-261364	19940616 (8)
DOCUMENT TYPE:	Utility	
PRIMARY EXAMINER:	Rimell, Sam	
LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE:	Weissburg, Steven J.	
NUMBER OF CLAIMS:	44	
EXEMPLARY CLAIM:	1	
NUMBER OF DRAWINGS:	19 Drawing Figure(s); 14 Drawing Page(s)	
LINE COUNT:	1553	

AB A self contained sensor apparatus generates a signal that corresponds to

at least two of the three orientational aspects of yaw, pitch and roll of a human-scale body, relative to an external reference frame. A sensor

generates first sensor signals that correspond to rotational accelerations or rates of the body about certain body axes. The sensor may be mounted to the body. Coupled to the sensor is a signal processor for generating orientation signals relative to the external reference frame that correspond to the angular rate or acceleration signals. The first sensor signals are impervious to interference from electromagnetic, acoustic, optical and mechanical sources. The sensors

time. A drift compensator is coupled to the rate sensors and the integrator. The drift compensator may include a gravitational tilt sensor or a magnetic field sensor or both. A verifier periodically measures the orientation of the body by a means different from the drift sensitive rate sensors. The verifier may take into account characteristic features of human motion, such as stillness periods. The drift compensator may be, in part, a Kalman filter, which may utilize statistical data about human head motion.

L5 ANSWER 8 OF 9 USPATFULL

ACCESSION NUMBER: 97:36834 USPATFULL

TITLE: Force reflecting haptic interface

INVENTOR(S): Massie, Thomas H., Vanceburg, KY, United States  
Salisbury, Jr., J. Kenneth, Cambridge, MA, United States

PATENT ASSIGNEE(S): Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, United States (U.S. corporation)

	NUMBER	DATE
PATENT INFORMATION:	US 5625576	19970429
APPLICATION INFO.:	US 1993-130639	19931001 (8)
DOCUMENT TYPE:	Utility	
PRIMARY EXAMINER:	Cosimano, Edward R.	
LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE:	Weissburg, Steven J.	
NUMBER OF CLAIMS:	42	
EXEMPLARY CLAIM:	11	
NUMBER OF DRAWINGS:	17 Drawing Figure(s); 10 Drawing Page(s)	
LINE COUNT:	2143	

AB A connection element such as a thimble connects to a user's body member and, through a linkage, to a ground reference. The apparatus physically exchanges a **force** with a user in an environment local to the user. The linkage powers at least three independent **freedoms** of the connection element relative to the reference. It also maintains at least one independent **freedom** of the connection element relative to the reference free of power. Up to three independent **freedoms** of the connection element may be maintained free of power, and up to five independent **freedoms** may be powered. A **gimbal** connects the **gimbal** to the linkage. Zero, one or two of the **gimbal** axes may be powered. A five bar linkage connects the connection element to a counter-balance that also includes two actuators. A third actuator connects the five bar linkage to the reference. The two actuators of the counterbalance may be connected to the next link in the chain to the reference through a single cable. Signal processing equipment powers the actuators to deliver a signal at the connection element that represents a virtual situation generated by a programmed computer, or physical conditions in a remote environment.

A virtual switch presents to the user the **force** and displacement relationship of a spring switch. A virtual bristled brush presents the **force** and displacement relationship of such a brush, while also changing the virtual environment to **reflect** the user's changes in location.

L5 ANSWER 9 OF 9 USPATFULL

ACCESSION NUMBER: 96:119144 USPATFULL

TITLE: Force reflecting haptic interface

INVENTOR(S): Massie, Thomas H., Vanceburg, KY, United States  
Salisbury, Jr., J. Kenneth, Cambridge, MA, United States

	NUMBER	DATE
PATENT INFORMATION:	US 5587937	19961224
APPLICATION INFO.:	US 1995-429266	19950425 (8)
RELATED APPLN. INFO.:	Continuation of Ser. No. US 1993-130639, filed on 1 Oct 1993	
DOCUMENT TYPE:	Utility	
PRIMARY EXAMINER:	Cosimano, Edward R.	
LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE:	Weissburg, Steven J.	
NUMBER OF CLAIMS:	9	
EXEMPLARY CLAIM:	1	
NUMBER OF DRAWINGS:	17 Drawing Figure(s); 10 Drawing Page(s)	
LINE COUNT:	1912	

AB A connection element such as a thimble connects to a user's body member,

through a linkage, to a ground reference. The apparatus physically exchanges a **force** with a user in an environment local to the user. The linkage powers at least three independent **freedoms** of the connection element relative to the reference. It also maintains at least one independent **freedom** of the connection element relative to the reference free of power. Up to three independent **freedoms** of the connection element may be maintained free of power, and up to five independent **freedoms** may be powered. A **gimbal** connects the **gimbal** to the linkage. Zero, one or two of the **gimbal** axes may be powered. A five bar linkage connects the connection element to a counter-balance that also includes two actuators. A third actuator connects the five bar linkage to the reference. The two actuators of the counterbalance may be connected to the next link in the chain to the reference through a single cable. Signal processing equipment powers the actuators to deliver a signal at the connection element that represents a virtual situation generated by a programmed computer, or physical conditions in a remote environment.

A

virtual switch presents to the user the **force** and displacement relationship of a spring switch. A virtual bristled brush presents the **force** and displacement relationship of such a brush, while also changing the virtual environment to **reflect** the user's changes in location.